

Spark Gap

Vol. 31, Issue 11, November 2014 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-one years*

On Our MARC...

Many thanks to the MARC members that took part in our annual Goblin Patrol on Halloween night. It was a cold evening to be sitting there watching the bridges to keep our freeways safe from anyone tossing rocks or pumpkins off the bridges over I-65. I don't have a list of who was out there but again, thank you.

A reminder that the week-end of Nov 15th and 16th is the Ft Wayne Hamfest. For those who will be attending the Hamfest, stay warm. Sounds like it will be a cold week-end. For those not attending the Hamfest, I hope that you will join us at our monthly meeting on Saturday morning at 8a.m.

I am still collecting blankets for the homeless through December. If you have any old blankets that you are replacing, please bring to the November or December meeting.

Please mark your calendar for December 20th. This is our annual holiday meeting. It will be a pitch in breakfast.

Just a reminder that our dues expire December 31st, so please remember to renew your membership. Your support of MARC is appreciated.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.

Jacki KI6QOG
President



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

WS9H-Rhonda Curtis
W9TEJ-Ron Koons
KC9YHX-Michael Ney
K9ICP-Bruce Tisdale
W9TD-John Wampner



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM M.A.R.C.



Trivia Quiz –

1. Who was the first “HAM” in Space?
 - a) Norm Fusaro – W3IZ b) Dr. Owen Garriott – W5LFL
 - c) HAM – the Space Chimp d) E Mike McCardel – KC8YLD
2. What type of modulation has a constant power output level?
 - a) Amplitude Modulation b) Frequency Modulation c) CW d) SSB
3. What is the maximum power output allowed in a transmitter for remote control of model craft?
 - a) 5 watts b) 2.5 watts c) 1 watt d) 0.5 watt
4. Your station is plagued by interference from a strong local broadcast station. To solve the problem use:
 - a) Band Pass Filter b) Notch Filter c) Comb Filter d) Chebyshev Filter
5. Vertical antennas can work well for DX due to their:
 - a) Wide Bandwidth b) Hi-Q loading coils c) Omni-directional radiation pattern
 - d) low angle of radiation
6. The U.S of A. has 3rd party traffic agreements with all of the following except:
 - a) Israel b) Bosnia-Herzegovina c) Germany d) United Kingdom e) Jordan
7. On 60 meters, amateurs are restricted to:
 - a) 50 watts, as measured at the transmitter output b) 50 watts to the antenna input
 - c) 50 watts ERP d) 50 watts PEP
8. Ideally, an NVIS antenna should be erected:
 - a) Between 0.1 and 0.25 wavelength above ground b) as close to the ground as possible
 - c) Between 8 and 12 feet above ground d) With the elements touching the ground at each end
9. Digital FM has an operating duty factor of:
 - a) 25% b) 50% c) 75% d) 100%
10. “Manhattan Style” is a:
 - a) Morse Code Cadence b) Technique for operating in VHF/UHF contests
 - c) Technique for home brewing circuit boards d) Technique for mounting multiple antennas on a tower.
11. High end manufacturer of Ham Radio equipment located in OH before going defunct:
 - a) Collins b) Clegg c) Hammarlund d) R.L Drake
12. In order to conduct a license exam session, there must be at least ____ VE's present:
 - a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5
13. The ARRL Section with the most hams is locate in:
 - a) Ohio b) San Francisco c) Los Angeles d) Sacramento Valley
14. What propagation mode is common on the 6 meter band?
 - a) F-Layer b) E-Layer c) Tropo d) All the above
15. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) The RADIOGRAM November 2014 Page 15 of 40
16. What is the value of a resistor colored RED, Yellow, Brown, Gold?
 - a) 230 ohms 10% b) 240 ohms 5% c) 3400 ohms 1% d) 2400 ohms 5%
17. When radio ops on the Titanic knew the ship was sinking, what message did they first send?
 - a) QRZ b) SOS c) CQD d) HELP!
18. What does the term “dip & load refer to?
 - a) Tuning a manual tuned transmitter for proper operation
 - b) Adjusting your antenna matching for a low SWR
 - c) Reducing the TX RF output while tuning an external RF amp d) none of the above
19. The Phase Lock Loop (PLL) was first used for what purpose?
 - a) to improve Local Oscillator (LO) stability in radio receivers
 - b) to replace crystals in two meter transceivers
 - c) to compensate for “doppler shift” in orbiting communications satellites
 - d) to generate “synthesized” frequencies
20. Household lamp cord can not only be used as an antenna, but can be used for feedline, too.
 - a) True b) False
21. What Ham Radio website was the first to go online?

- a) ARRL.org b) QRZ.com c) EHAM.net d) QTH.net
21. Solar Cycles have an average length of:
 a) 1 year b) 3 years c) 6 years d) 11 years
22. Center-fed half-wave dipoles have an input resistance of approximately:
 a) 32 ohms b) 50 ohms c) 73 ohms d) 100 ohms
23. What is the definition of resonance?
 a) when inductive and capacitive reactances are equal b) when maximum plate current flows
 c) when operating frequency equals desired frequency
 d) Resonance is when all circuits are functioning as desired
24. All Vertical antennas must be "end fed"
 a) TRUE b) FALSE

2014 ARES SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (S.E.T.)

On November 8th was the date for the first Statewide ARES S.E.T. Most of the county ARES teams were active during the simulated test that had a scenario of a very large solar flare that disrupted communications and electrical power through out the State of Indiana. No details of this scenario was given in advance and all of the ARES Emergency Coordinators were sworn to secrecy of what was to happen next. The S.E.T. Lasted about three hours and each hour represented a four hour period during the exercise. The ARRL Indiana Section Manager, Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ supplied all counties playing with good information and the injects needed to keep the exercise going.

Johnson County had twelve amateurs (ARES/RACES) members involved in this exercise. IDHS had their State RACES group active and traffic was sent to the State EOC in this simulated test. All stations involved in this exercise were requested to provide a brief summary as well as any suggestions that would be included in a report to ARRL HQ and State ARES personnel. The feed back I have received has been good and we look forward our next ARES S.E.T. Adventure.

I would personally like to thank the following stations that participated in the exercise: N9LLP, K9THR, KD9ALA, KD9BHM, W9BU, KC9WLR, W9OQ, W9ELF, W9IMH, KB9LOT, W8ISH and N9SIU.

..... Bob N9SIU



Jack W8ISH at his station.



Ron K9THR on the air.



Mike KC9WLR on location

November 2014 Sparkgap coffee break training.

As we get more than half way through our study on the process of applying for disaster assistance our mind looks at the money we may get in the form of FEMA Grants. As with anytime we get money ‘handed to us’ we sometimes ask, ‘what’s it going to cost me?’ The FEMA Grant program is just that, a GRANT, and you do not have to pay it back and its tax free. Here is a News Release for FEMA disaster declaration (FEMA DR-4116 Northern Illinois Summer 2013) for storm related damages and the worries that you have to pay taxes on or it will affect your Social Security income, eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps, or Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). Rusty Kirts N9LLP

Disaster Grants Won't Affect Social Security or Taxes

AURORA, Ill. – State and federal disaster assistance is not treated as income and is not taxable. It also does not affect Social Security benefits, nor does it affect a recipient's eligibility for other federal assistance programs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has so far awarded more than **\$80.9 million** dollars in disaster grants to individuals affected by the Illinois storms of April 16-May 5. Those grants have paid for temporary housing and other needs, such as personal property loss, medical care, and transportation. Here are answers to some typically asked questions:

Question: *Will receiving a grant cause my income to increase to the point that I am no longer eligible for Medicaid, or food stamps, or Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF).*

Answer: No. Grants for housing and Other Needs Assistance [ONA] are not counted as income in determining eligibility for any income-tested benefit programs that receives U.S. government funds.

Question: I took my Social Security benefits early. If I earn more than a certain amount each year, I must repay \$1 of my Social Security payment for every \$2 I earn. *Will FEMA grants add to my income and require me to repay Social Security?*

Answer: No. FEMA grants for housing and ONA are not counted as income.

Question: I'm over 65, but if I earn more than a certain amount, I must pay tax on my Social Security income. *Will a FEMA grant boost my income and require me to pay tax on my Social Security income?*

Answer: No. Again, the IRS does not count FEMA grants for housing and ONA as income.

It is not necessary to visit a DRC to register with FEMA. Individuals can register online at www.disasterassistance.gov or via web-enabled phone at m.fema.gov. Applicants may also call 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585. People who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services (VRS) can call 800-621-3362. For more information visit the Illinois Disaster website www.fema.gov/disaster/4116.

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by Chris Codella, W2PA

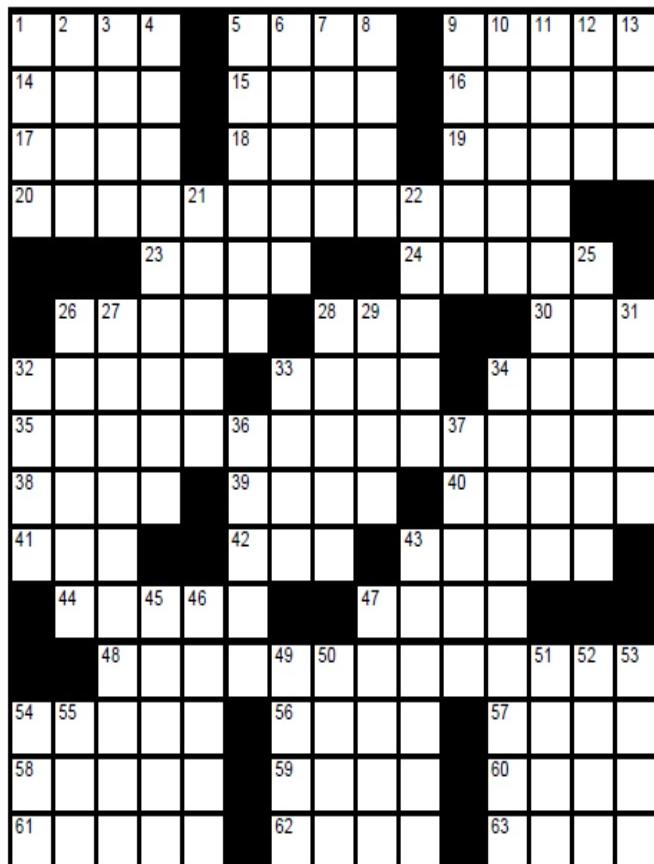
10/29/2007

Propagation

Across

1. "WRTC grand " - working all 1x1 calls
5. Parts supplier McMaster-

9. Sword handles
14. Digital music std.
15. Silent Key article, briefly
16. Fill with joy
17. Antenna restrictions might be on this
18. A craving for that last multiplier, say
19. Northern city with F call prefix
20. DXers' mood swings?
23. Decades over S9
24. Sharpens
26. Early term for static crash (1920's)
28. Nothing more, on CW
30. Ocean
32. "Air" for an early ham
33. gum - a thickening agent
34. Hams xmit and rec with them
35. The way, for signals
38. A non-radio bug
39. A hamfest of the Internet
40. Time of year



60. Vymuch
61. DC power sources, briefly
62. Cluster item
63. Maine prefix, possibly

11. Calling CQ TEST one minute before the contest begins
12. Kind of logic ckt
13. You can do it with ATV

43. FCC license, slangily
45. Like an untouched Heathkit
46. Freezes a digital VFO
47. Prefix with chip or wave

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Source: <http://www.w2pa.com/Home/articles/crossword-puzzles>

HAMFESTS

11/15/2014 | [Indiana State Convention \(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo\)](#)

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H
Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY
Repeater Trustee: Steve Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

*P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131*

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

Answer to Propagation:



Answers to Trivia Quiz:

- 1) C – HAM the Space Chimp, born July 1956, died Jan 19, 1983. Launched into space Jan. 31, 1961 as part of America's Space Program. W5LFL – made first 2 meter contact from space – STS9, November 1983.
- 2) B – Frequency Modulation
- 3) C – 1 Watt
- 4) B – Notch Filter
- 5) D – Low angle of radiation
- 6) C – Germany
- 7) C – 50 watts ERP
- 8) A – between 0.10 and 0.25 wavelength above ground
- 9) D – 100%
- 10) C – Technique for home brewing circuit boards
- 11) D – R.L. Drake
- 12) B – 3
- 13) A – OH
- 14) D – all the above happen on 6 – the “Magic Band”
- 15) B – 240 ohms at 5%
- 16) C – CQD
- 17) A – Technique for tuning a manually tuned Tx – Dip the plate, max load (power out)
- 18) C – to compensate for “Doppler Shift” in orbiting Comm Satellites
- 19) A – True mostly used in QRP
- 20) B – QRZ.com 1993
- 21) D – 11 years
- 22) C – 73 ohms
- 23) A – when inductive and capacitive reactance are equal
- 24) B – False